(3) Election of two members to the Annamalai University Senate.

Mr. CHAIRMAN : I have to announce to the House that Sri M. Ethirajulu and Sri M. Rajah Iyer, M.L.CS., are the only two candidates validly nominated to the Senate of the Annamalai University. As the number of candidates nominated is equal to the number of vacancies to be filled, namely, two, I hereby declare them duly elected to the Senate of the Annamalai University.

(4) Election of one Member to the Board of Industries.

Mr. CHAIRMAN : I have also to announce to the House that Sri Sivasankara Mehta is the only candidate duly nominated for election to the Board of Industries. As he is the only candidate nominated to fill the only vacancy, I hereby declare him duly elected to the Board of Industries.

(5) Decision of the Business Advisory Committee.

Mr. CHAIRMAN : In partial modification of the programme of business already announced, it has been decided by the Business Advisory Committee at its meeting held at 2-30 p.m. to-day to take up the following official Bills on the 13th November instead of non-official business :—

1. The Madras General Sales-tax (Second Amendment) Bill, 1965.

2. The Madras Preservation of Private Forests (Continuance) Bill, 1965.

3. The Glanders and Farcy (Madras Amendment) Bill, 1965.

The Council will adjourn on the 13th November 1965.

III Calling attention to the bonus dispute in the textile industry in the Coimbatore region.

*** திரு. என். வி. நடராசன் :** கனம் தலைவர் அவர்களே, கோவை மாவட்ட பஞ்சாலைகளில் பணியாற்றும் பல்லாயிரக்கணக்கான தொழிலாளர்களுக்கு இந்த ஆண்டுக்கு அளிக்கப்படவேண்டிய போனஸ் பிரச்னை பற்றி தொழிலாளர்களுக்கும் ஆலை சொந்தக்காரர்களுக்கும் நடந்த பேச்சு வார்த்தைகளின்போது தொழிற் சங்கப் பிரதிநிதிகள் தங்களது கருத்துக்களைத் தெரிவித்து இருந்தும், அரசாங்கம் இது வரையில் அந்த பிரச்னையை முடிவுக்குக்கொண்டு வராததால் இன்றைய நெருக்கடியான நிலையில் தொழிலாளத் தோழர்கள் பெரிதும் அதிருப்தி அடைந்துள்ளனர். ஆகையால் இந்தப் பிரச்னை மிக முக்கியமானதாக இருப்பதால், அதற்குத் தக்க நடவடிக்கை எடுத்து நியாயம் வழங்க முன்வரவேண்டுமென்று கனம் முதலமைச்சர் அவர்கள் கவனத்திற்கு இதைக் கொண்டு வருகிறேன்.

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM : Sir, I wish to make the following statement :—

As has been the practice in the previous years, the representatives of the Trade Unions in the Textile Industry in the Coimbatore Region and the representatives of the Southern India Mill-Owners' Association held direct talks on the issue of quantum of bonus payable by textile mills in respect of the years 1963 and 1964. A series of discussions took place. A stage was reached when there was not common ground for discussion in view of the fact that some of the unions insisted that the determination of the bonus should be on the basis of the majority recommendations of the Bonus Commission, and the Southern India Mill-Owners' Association was of the view that bonus should be determined as per the formula in the Bonus Ordinance. The Labour Commissioner then intervened and held informal discussions with the parties and advised them to resume further talks. The representatives of the Southern India Mill-Owners' Association and the Trade Unions held further direct talks and at the final meeting held on the 4th October 1965, the Southern India Mill-Owners' Association informed the Unions of the crisis faced by the Textile Industry on account of the accumulation of stocks and that many Mills would find it difficult to make any payment before the Deepavali. The Unions wanted that at least 8-1/3 per cent of the total wages as in the previous year should be paid as bonus advance. As the direct negotiations broke down, the Labour Commissioner met the parties at Coimbatore on the 12th October 1965 and 13th October 1965 and held prolonged discussions. With a view to see that the workmen are enabled to get some money to meet their Deepavali expenses, the Labour Commissioner recommended to the parties that all the mills should pay to each employee a bonus advance amounting to 4-1/6 per cent of the total wages earned during 1964, subject to a minimum of Rs. 40 and that the amount may be disbursed before the 16th October 1965. The suggestion of the Labour Commissioner was accepted by the Southern India Mill-Owners' Association and by the Indian National Trade Union Congress. The other Unions organised an agitation in respect of all the mills, who had announced payment of 4-1/6 per cent as bonus advance, by asking the workers to squat within the Mills' premises, after their working hours. There was, however, no interruption in production. The Union leaders also met the Chief Minister who happened to pass through Coimbatore on the 16th October 1965 and he advised them to call off the agitation and told them that, if need be, the bonus issue could be referred for adjudication. Some of the Union leaders resorted to hunger strike for three days.

The agitation has subsided after Deepavali. The Payment of Bonus Act has come into force with effect from the 25th November 1965. The Government are fully seized of the matter and will take appropriate steps under the Industrial Disputes Act to resolve the dispute.